Line 15, delete "(TS)" and "(EE)".

Line 16, delete "(AE)".

Line 17, delete "(T)".

Delete line 21.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 in the underlying PCT application, without prejudice. Please also cancel, without prejudice, claims 1-6 in the annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report ("IPER").

Please add the following new claims:

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7. (New) A failsafe data input device, comprising:

at least one input channel for connecting peripheral sensors;

a test circuit that triggers a test procedure at predetermined times to effect a status change for at least one of the input channels; and

internal logic monitoring the status change and outputting an error message, the status change effected by the test circuit being canceled at an end of the test procedure, the test procedure being completely transparent for reading out an affected input channel.

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8. (New) The failsafe data input device according to claim 7, wherein the at least one input channel is antivalent.

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9. (New) A failsafe data output device, comprising:

at least one output channel for connecting peripheral actuators; and

a processing unit to process a user-designed logic operation, the processing unit evaluating useful information of a received telegram, subjecting the useful information to the user-designed logic operation

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and driving the at least one output channel in accordance with a result of the logic operation.

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~~10.~~ (New) The failsafe data output device according to claim 9 10, wherein the processing unit monitors a time sequence of process data transmitted with the useful information and drives the at least one output channel only when the time sequence of data for driving the at least one output channel lies within predetermined tolerances.

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~~11.~~ (New) The failsafe data output device according to claim 9 10, further comprising:

a monitoring circuit constructed as a watchdog, the monitoring circuit to monitor the processing unit and shifting the at least one output channel into a safe state as soon as a malfunction of the processing unit is detected.

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~~12.~~ (New) The failsafe data output device according to claim 11 ~~11,~~ wherein the at least one output channel includes a readback output channel, wherein a signal supplied to the readback output channel is also supplied to the monitoring circuit, the monitoring circuit comparing the supplied signal and a signal read back from the readback channel and, in response to deviations, shifts an affected output channel or all of the at least one output channels into a safe state.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-7 in the underlying PCT application. This Preliminary Amendment further cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-6 in the annex to the IPER, and adds new claims 11-20. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the drawings, the specification and the abstract conform the drawings, the specification and the abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark

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